

SECTION 7 - FITNESS TO WORK

FW/04: Infection reporting requirements for food handlers

Important note: This document must be signed by the food-handler upon recruitment, prior to undertaking food handling duties for the first time and at regular intervals of 12 months thereon. A copy of which shall be retained at unit-level

***Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, Chapter VIII - Personal Hygiene,** requires that; “no person suffering from, or to being a carrier of a disease likely to be transmitted through food or afflicted, for example with infected wounds, skin infections, sores or diarrhoea is to be permitted to handle food or enter any food-handling area in any capacity if there is any likelihood of direct or indirect contamination” and “any person so affected and employed in a food business and who is likely to come into contact with food is to report immediately the illness or symptoms and if possible their causes, to the food business operator”.

***Food Handlers *Fitness to Work* Regulatory Guidance and Best Practice Advice for Food Business Operators,** requires that; food handlers following a period of sickness involving vomiting and/or diarrhoea will only be allowed to resume food-handling duties once:

- there has been no vomiting for a period of 48 hours once any treatment has ceased;
- the bowel habit has returned to normal for a period of 48 hours either spontaneously or on cessation of treatment with anti-diarrhoeal drugs; and
- good hygiene practice, particularly effective hand washing is observed in all circumstances

To ensure the safety of food is not compromised food handlers shall:

- notify their line-manager with immediate effect if they show symptoms of vomiting and/or diarrhoea whilst at work;
- not attempt to enter a food preparation area or undertake food handling duties; and
- leave the premises immediately.

Food handlers shall inform their line-manager that they are fit to resume food-handling duties following:

- a bout of vomiting and/or diarrhoea and that they have been symptom-free for a period of 48 hours;
- after a holiday or a trip abroad during which they suffered with a bout of vomiting and/or diarrhoea; or
- if a direct family member or close contact is suffering from a bout of vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

The following illnesses and conditions must also be reported without delay:

- skin rash and septic skin lesions (boils, infected cuts, styes etc. however small);
- discharge from ears, eyes, nose or mouth; and
- acute coughs and colds.

Food handlers that fail to comply with these requirements will be committing an offence under the above-mentioned *legislation/*regulatory guidance of which will be deemed a serious matter and may be dealt with under the formal disciplinary procedure.

I have read and fully understand my legal obligation to report any of the afore-mentioned.

Name:	Signature:
Area of work:	Date:

Version	Date of issue	Author	Endorsed by
V3	June 2019	Graham Day; Health & Safety Adviser	Graham Hakes; Senior Health & Safety Adviser